AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1 and 14 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for providing access between a first party and a second party, said method comprising the steps of:

generating a challenge value at said first party;

transmitting said challenge value to said second party;

generating a response value using a combination of a lock value and said challenge value at said second party;

wherein said lock value indicates a desired access mode;

transmitting said response value to said first party; and

validating said response value by said first party.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said first party is a disk drive and said second party is a host computer.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 2, wherein said disk drive is locked when not accessed.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further including:
using 512 bits for said challenge value and using 512 bits for said lock value.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further including:
randomly generating said challenge value.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further including:
using a disk drive controller to generate said challenge value.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of generating said response value further includes:

using an exclusive OR (XOR) to combine said challenge and said lock value.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of generating said response value further includes:

using 160 bits for said response value.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of generating said response value further includes:

using a cryptography circuit to generate said response value.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 9, wherein said step of generating said response value further includes the step of using an algorithm to generate said response value.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 6, wherein said step of generating said response value further includes:

using a secure hash algorithm to generate said response value.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 11, wherein said step of validating said response value further includes:

wherein said disk drive controller receives the challenge and lock value;

computing a duplicate response value on said disk drive controller by performing a duplicate secure hash algorithm; and

comparing said response value to said duplicate response value.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 12, wherein said step of validating said response value further includes:

unlocking the disk drive in accordance with the desired access mode indicated by the lock value if the response and duplicate response values match.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing access between a first party and a second party, said apparatus comprising:

means for generating a challenge value at said first party;

means for transmitting said challenge value to said second party;

means for generating a response value using a combination of a lock value and said challenge value at said second party;

wherein said lock value indicates a desired access mode;

means for transmitting said response value to said first party; and

means for validating said response value by said first party.

15. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein said first party is a disk drive and said second party is a host computer.

16. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein said disk drive is locked when not accessed.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 14, further including:

means for using 512 bits for said challenge value and using 512 bits for said lock value.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 14, further including:

means for randomly generating said challenge value.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 14, further including:

means for using a disk drive controller to generate said challenge value.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein said means for generating said response value further includes:

means for using an exclusive OR (XOR) for combining said challenge and said lock values.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein said means for generating said response value further includes:

means for using 160 bits for said response value.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein said means for generating said response value further includes:

a cryptography circuit for generating said response value.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 22, wherein said means for generating said response value further includes an algorithm for generating said response value.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein said means for generating said response value further includes:

a secure hash algorithm for generating said response value.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 19, wherein said means for validating said response value further includes:

wherein said disk drive controller receives challenge and lock value;

means for computing a duplicate response value on said disk drive controller by performing a duplicate secure hash algorithm; and

means for comparing said response value to said duplicate response value.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein said means for validating said response value further includes:

means for unlocking the disk drive in accordance with the desired access mode indicated by the lock value if the response and duplicate response values match.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein said means for validating said response value further includes:

means for unlocking the disk drive in accordance with the desired access mode indicated by the lock value if the response value is valid.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of validating said response value further includes:

unlocking the disk drive in accordance with the desired access mode indicated by the lock value if the response value is valid.